

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated December 11, 2003, having a shortened statutory period set to expire March 11, 2004. In the present Amendment, Claims 1-2, 16-17 and 20 are canceled, and Claims 21-25 are entered. Thus, Claims 3-15, 18-19 and 21-25 are now pending.

At page 5 of the present Office Action, Claims 10-15 are allowed, and Claims 4 and 19 are indicated as being directed to allowable subject matter. In response to the Examiner's indication of allowability with respect to Claims 4 and 19, Applicant has rewritten each of Claims 4 and 19 in independent form, including substantially all of the limitation of the respective base claim and any intervening claim. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 4 and 19, and their respective dependent claims are now in condition for allowance.

No fee or extension of time is believed to be required.

Respectfully submitted,



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